<u>REMARKS</u>

The Examiner is thanked for the due consideration given the application.

Claims 1, 2, and 5-14 are pending in the application. Claims 2 and 9 have been withdrawn. Claims 1, 2 and 5-9 have been amended to improve the language in a non-narrowing fashion. Claim 11 has been amended to stand as an independent apparatus claim and to have the various "means" recited therein better reflect the functionalities of claim 1.

No new matter is believed to be added to the application by this amendment.

Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested because it complies with matters of form and places the application in condition for allowance or, alternately, places the application in better from for appeal by instantly overcoming rejections.

<u>Rejections Under 35 USC §§112/101</u>

Claims 11-13 have been rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as being indefinite.

Claims 11-13 have been rejected under 35 USC §101 as being non-statutory.

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Both rejections arise from claim 11 having been an apparatus claim depending upon method claim 1. However, claim 11 has been amended to not depend upon claim 1 and is hence clearly an

apparatus claim couched in "means-plus-function" language suitable for any functionality that has been imported from claim 1.

Claim 11 (and its dependent claims) is thus statutory and set forth in language that is clear, definite and has full antecedent basis.
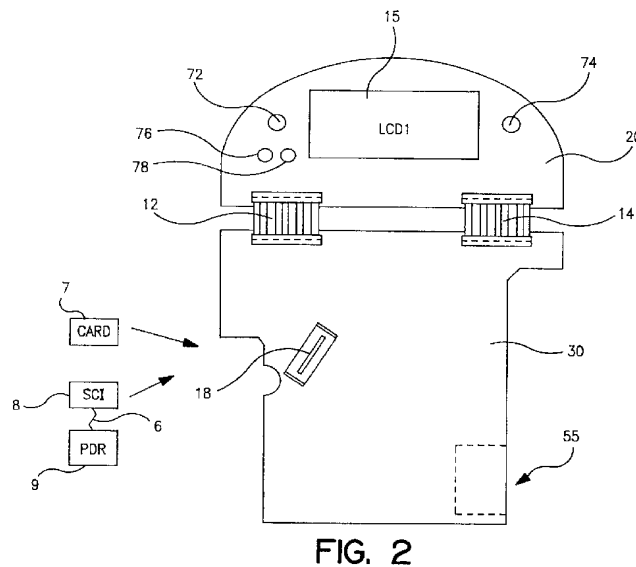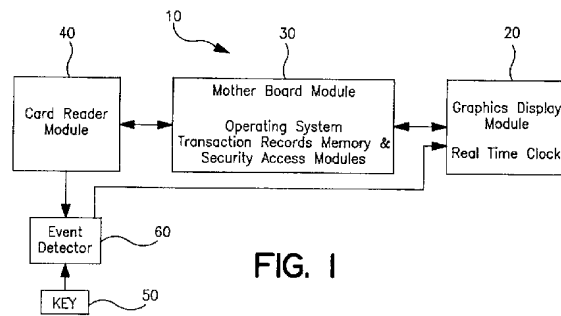
These rejections are believed to be overcome, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Rejection Over HILTZ et al.

Claims 1, 5-8, 10 and 14 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over HILTZ et al. (USP 6,111,522).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

HILTZ et al. pertain to a multiple electronic purse parking meter. Figures 1 and 2 of HILTZ et al. are reproduced below.

FIG. 1

FIG. 2

HILTZ et al. discloses an electronic parking meter 10 having a motherboard module 30, a display module 20 and a card reader module 40. The parking meter 10 may be provided with a cash slot and a coin chute for payment by coins. The card reader module 40 includes a card acceptor slot 18, and accepts standard ISO cards.

The motherboard module 30 has an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC) 36 with a microprocessor 34, and memories 33 and 35. A watchdog timer is provided on ASIC 36 in order to prevent processor 34 from "locking-up" due to a glitch.
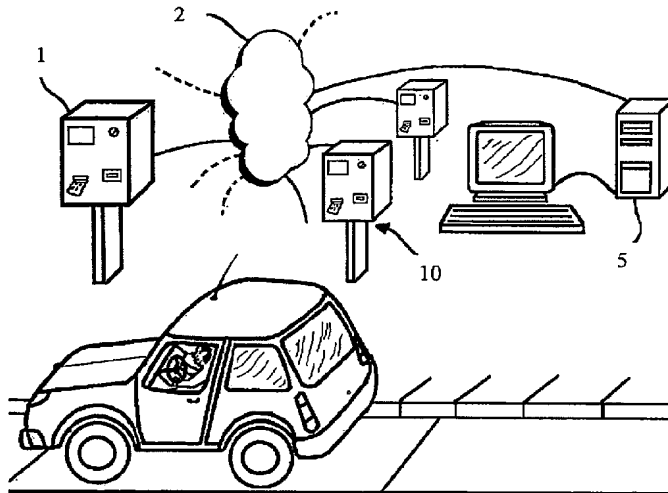
The maximum watchdog timeout period is 64 seconds. The watchdog is reset when the watchdog timer is not refreshed (column 9, lines 45 to 58).

HILTZ et al. do not disclose or infer *diagnosing malfunctions occurring on an apparatus*. Moreover, HILTZ et al. do not disclose or infer the functions of:

- *calculating* the value of at least one *data item representative* of an operation of the apparatus,

- *comparing* the calculated value to a predetermined reference value, and

- *deducing* the occurrence of a malfunction in the event that the calculating value is superior to the predetermined reference value.

This diagnostic approach has the unexpected result of easing the networking of parking meters, such as is shown in Figure 1 of the present invention, which is reproduced below.

FIG. 1

In comparison, the watchdog timer of HILTZ et al. **does not diagnose** any malfunction, but **only resets** the processor 34 if the watchdog timer has not been refreshed during the watchdog timeout period. The maximum watchdog timeout period is 64 seconds.

HILTZ et al. thus neither anticipates nor renders *prima facie* unpatentable a claimed embodiment of the present invention.

This rejection is believed to be overcome, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Since allowable subject matter is indicated, rejoinder is respectfully requested.

As no issues remain, the issuance of a Notice of Allowability is respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future submissions, to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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